



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
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Berry's Creek Technical Advisory Group Meeting
Minutes
March 6, 1986

The 14th meeting of TAG took place at the DEP Office in Trenton. The following people were in attendance: Dick Lee, George Harvell, Art Slesinger, Joe Maher, Richard Dime, Larry Schmidt, Glenn Bukowski (representing Hank Garie), John Ciancia and Tom Seckler (NJ Geological Survey -- Ground Water Contamination Section). The first agenda item considered was approval of the TAG minutes of January 30, 1986. The minutes were approved with the following technical corrections:

1. Page 2 paragraph 4 - The members of TAG welcomed Ms. Chris Altomari and Mr. Bob Sobleski.
2. Page 2 paragraph 5 - regarding the description of the UOP Site, the description in the third paragraph should indicate that the site is 80 acres of upland and tidal marshes.
3. Page 3 paragraph 1 - The first sentence should be changed to SCP Carlstadt, was a former industrial operation with activity taking place on the site until the mid 1970's.
4. Page 3 paragraph 2 - The results from these sites should be used in coordinating the development of sampling plans for Berrys Creek.

Two preliminary issues were raised prior to discussion on listed agenda items. Art Slesinger felt that the Office of Science and Research had made a commitment to manage the research aspects of the RI/FS. He felt that Hank Garie should formally report back to TAG with a verification of the commitment. George Harvell then asked TAG to define the relationship between OSR and the Research Subcommittee. Although the matter was not resolved, there was general agreement that the Subcommittee would continue to function in a complimentary role with the Office of Science and Research.

Larry Schmidt introduced Dr. Shing-Fu Hseuh and Dr. Patel from the Division of Water Resources in DEP. Dr. Hseuh reported on the water quality impact review conducted by his office in 1982 in which he predicted water quality changes given various levels of treatment from the Tri-Boro and Wood Ridge sewage treatment plants, both of which discharge into Berry's Creek. (note -- summaries of the Waste Load Allocation Report were distributed to TAG members. Larry Schmidt will make copies of the full report and mail it to the TAG members). Dr. Hseuh said the purpose of the study



was to evaluate whether or not the sewage treatment plants should be upgraded or phased-out. He emphasized that the study was not designed to address the mercury problem in Berrys Creek, rather it focused on the conventional pollutants expected in discharges from a municipal waste water treatment plant.

In explaining the report, Dr. Hseuh described the DEP's monitoring data from the sewage treatment plants, his sampling locations for water quality monitoring, and the hydraulic data for Berrys Creek. He described the process of dividing the Creek into segments, calibrating the model and verifying the model. Based on the above procedures he concluded that this model was reasonable.

Dr. Hseuh then described the sensitivity analysis and the critical unknown factors such as re-aeration coefficients, BOD decay rate, dispersion coefficients, and nitrification. After all of the input data had been placed in the model and verification and sensitivity analyses had been completed, the model was run assuming various levels of treatment at the two sewage treatment plants. The results indicated that the dissolved oxygen levels with the most advanced treatment would still fall short of the State's Water Quality Standards of five parts per million for the Tri-Boro Plant. The Wood Ridge S.T.P. could marginally meet the water quality standard with the highest level of treatment.

Based on the modelling results, the DWR decided that the most prudent course of action would be to phase-out both sewage treatment plants and direct the waste flow via a pump station and pipeline to the treatment facility at BCUA. Dick Lee noted that the reduction of 3 million gallons per day of wastewater flow could affect salinity in the Creek. Dr. Hseuh was asked by Larry Schmidt whether or not he could predict a change in water quality after the two sewage treatment plants were taken off-line. He indicated that he could expect a change but could not predict the exact consequences other than significant improvements in the DO levels. An observation was made that the improved water quality would represent more favorable conditions for micro-organisms to exist. Art Slesinger then asked Larry Schmidt to find out the latest schedule for the phase-out of the two sewage treatment plants and to also inquire about the design of the system. Specifically, will the water that is being conveyed to BCUA represent the dry weather flow or a percentage of the wet weather flow at what incremental level? Paul Galluzzi felt that the wet weather flow consisted of at least 6 million gallons per day and the actual impact on salinity would depend on the tidal differential.

The TAG also discussed whether or not the modelling report had been included in the Task I Submission. If not, the report should be added as an addendum to the literature search. Larry Schmidt thanked Dr. Hseuh and Dr. Patel for their presentation. As a parting thought, Dr. Hseuh expressed his willingness to work with the TAG to refine the water quality modelling provided that the project was given a high priority by his management.

The next agenda item was an update by George Harvell on the delivery of the final Task I reports from ERM-Southeast. George indicated that he has recently received a letter from Jim Orr indicating who got which copies, the numbering sequence, and the partial sets of the report that were still outstanding. It was agreed that ERM will complete the printing to make available 20 copies of all three volumes of the Task I report. George Harvell will follow-up with Jim Orr. Copy #1 of the report will be kept in Dr. Berkowitz's office as the "Master Copy". This will be done when Joe Maher receives 7 additional copies of Volume 2 to complete his sets.

George Harvell asked if Task I reports are now considered public documents. TAG members responded by saying yes, but not something to be widely distributed. Art Slesinger suggested that the Public Involvement Group within the Division of Waste Management issue a notice of availability of the Task I reports both in the DEP offices and in the Office of the HMDC. TAG asked Joe Maher to follow-up on this matter with Grace Singer.

Larry Schmidt gave TAG a brief status report on the Rumundo development in Carlstadt. He had asked Oksana Yaremko to make a presentation at the meeting. However, Oksana indicated that she could not attend the meeting and relayed the status report to him over the phone. It appears that the Corps of Engineers will allow the fill that has been placed in the wetlands to remain and that no monetary penalty will be assessed. However, the Corps of Engineers has asked the applicant to work with the HMDC on a mitigation plan which will involve enhancement of existing wetlands on the Ramundo site. Also, the Corps is expecting a 404 permit application from Ramundo to fill an additional 1-2 acres of wetlands so as to round out the development area. Paul Galluzzi responded by saying that he is working with the consultant for Ramundo to develop a mitigation plan involving opening up of some of the wetlands acres with ponds and water courses which could act as sediment traps. TAG members agreed to focus attention on the mitigation plan when it is submitted to the Corps.

The discussion turned to an update on the research contract between WES and DEP. Joe Maher distributed a revised scope of work in a form that will be used as appendices to the WES/DEP contract. The TAG members reviewed the language in the scope of work appendices to make final corrections and improvements. Joe Maher hoped that the document could be finalized by the end of the day so that Dick Lee could take the contract back to WES for signature.

The outstanding issues that were addressed during the TAG meeting included a final discussion on the payment schedule and the requirements for a quality assurance/quality control (qa/qc) plan that will be required in the contract. Dr. Lee explained that some of the requirements mandated by OSR will necessitate unanticipated time and cost of the research. This will be in the form of reformatting data and filling out numerous forms. The final details regarding the issue of

qa/qc requirements will be thrashed out in a discussion with OSR immediately following the TAG meeting.

In order to provide a record of TAG's sense on the matter of the qa/qc plan, a Resolution was introduced by Art Slesinger and approved by TAG in a vote of 5-0. Glenn Bukowski of OSR abstained. The resolution reads as follows:

TAG accepts the current qa/qc procedures of the Waterways Experiment Station as acceptable pending submission of the detailed plan. The Corps' qa/qc program will be deemed acceptable to TAG unless OSR can substantiate significant deficiencies on the part of WES.

Prior to acting on the Resolution, the group discussed the practicality of imposing what some members felt were overburdensome requirements on WES. For example, it was pointed out that WES is a CLP equivalent laboratory routinely used by EPA Superfund work. Also, Richard Dime felt that OSR's strict requirements on Tier I and II reporting may not be appropriate for this type of research work. Rather, he indicated that that level of qa/qc is generally geared for collection and analysis of monitoring data. Dick Lee's only objection to the requirements of Tier I and II reporting is because of the paperwork and the need for data retrofitting. The Corps' manpower necessary to complete those requirements were not calculated in the proposal. He had no problem in providing all of the required data or keeping it on file provided he did not have to reformat it and put it on special forms as a routine function of his laboratory.

Larry Schmidt closed the meeting by suggesting that another TAG meeting not be scheduled for the near future. He suggested that the Chairman of SAC schedule a meeting in mid-April and that the next TAG meeting follow shortly thereafter. By that time a Draft RFP will be completed by Joe Maher and the TAG will have had an opportunity to go through the draft as part of the review and comment process. It was agreed that the SAC meeting could address the Revised Stipulation and Order prior to its submission to the Court as well as other ongoing matters which needed to be brought to SAC for its blessing (i.e. - finalization of WES contract, etc).

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30pm.